

WASHINGTON'S HOME.

THE ESTATE IN WESTMORELAND.

An Interesting Sketch of the House in Which the
Father of His Country Was Born and the
Surrounding Estates—The Place
for the Monument.

Mr. Myra Finch, of this city, furnishes **THE REPUBLICAN** with the following interesting article: "I was much interested in the article headed 'Virginia Notes' which appeared in **THE REPUBLICAN** of Monday. In speaking of Wakefield as the birthplace of Washington, the writer has fallen into a few errors, which it is my present purpose to correct, as well as to state some facts relative to that interesting locality which are not generally known to the public. My wife and myself recently passed several days at Wakefield as the invited guests of Mr. John E. Wilson, the present proprietor; his wife, Betty, the daughter of Mrs. Sally Washington (the venerable widow of Law-

ton, I hardly need add that our visit in the company of these friends (Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Wilson are my wife's blood relations) was very pleasant and interesting one. We saw almost every acre of the vast estate, and learned many facts respecting its present condition which can hardly fail of interesting the reader. The estate when first occupied by John and Lawrence Washington, in 1667, numbered 3,699 acres. It now consists of four divisions, hereafter to be described. Mr. Wilson showed me the original deed of the estate executed to the Washingtons. It bore the marks of age and was stuck together in many

THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS OF THE ESTATE may be described as follows: Wakefield is owned and occupied by Mr. Wilson, and contains nearly fourteen hundred acres. The birth-place of our Washington and the burial-place of his ancestors are on this portion of the estate. The former is a long half mile and the latter about two miles from Mr. Wilson's residence. Each is situated in a very large field, the former containing two hundred and the latter one hundred and fifty acres. The house in which Washington was born was accidentally

Washington, father of the venerable Mrs. Washington above referred to, Blenheim, another portion of the estate, contains fourteen hundred acres, and is owned by Mrs. Washington and occu-

ston is built of brick, and is one and a half miles from the residence of Mr. Wilson. The house was built and occupied by Colonel William Augustus Washington until the destruction of the building by the birth-place by fire in 1779.

LAUREL GROVE, A THIRD DIVISION
of the estate, is situated nearly two miles from the Wakefield mansion, Mr. Wilson's residence. It contains 1,400 acres and is owned by Dr. William Wilson. The dwelling on this part of the estate was built by the same family, and has never been rebuilt. A huge chimney, with two fireplaces at its base, is all that remains of a once commodious, attractive Virginia farm-house. Dr. Wilson resides at Wirtland, his elegant family seat, about six miles distant. Haywood, the only son, owns 1,000 acres, and is owned by Mr. Deane C. Wirt. The mansion of Haywood was built and occupied for

to date. While one of the most magnificent of the
divulgence in Virginia when first accepted by Mr. Wirt,
who abandoned any claim to a recovery of the great
loss of any public highway. It is the fact that
the same was not the case with the same highway
two and a half miles from the Washington transferred
and situated directly on the basis of the Potomac
River. After it was abandoned as a residence for
the Wirt family.

English, the venerable patron of "Winged Victory," was a member of the first generation of one of his exponents. He died in Georgetown in 1830, aged fifty-four years, and his remains repose in the family vault of the city of Washington. His son, Vernon, Mr. Sallie Washington, his daughter, was born the year that General Washington died. Additional facts respecting Wakefield, briefly stated, may interest the reader. With the exception of his wife, Mrs. Wakefield, and his son, Mr. Lawrence Washington, of Blenheim, and their families are the only white persons residing on the plantation, and almost all the slaves and there is not a slave to be found on it large enough to throw at a bird. The foundations of the old mansion, which was burned in 1856, are still visible. The masonry used in laying the brick is burned from oyster shells. The old mill race, which runs along the shores of the Potomac and of Pope's Creek, built by the late General, is still in use. The growth of trees and fencing timber are scarce. The growth of

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On the 11th of February, 1722, Washington was born. Visitors and relic-hunters have taken away the slab by piecemeal, until not a particle of it remains. The crowning act of this species of vandalism occurred in 1860, since which time not a vestige of the slab has been seen. But the spot where it occurred is plain to see, and a distinct mark the spot where once stood the humble farm house in which the great Washington was born. One word about the proposed monument. It will occupy the spot which is now imperfectly defined by the green fence for one acre, and contains one-half-acre. It is the voluntary gift of the late Colonel George C. Washington and his heirs.

property is located in the State of Virginia, and the proposed monument cannot be erected until the State Government alienates its title to the Government.

Wakefield is in Westmoreland County, and is located about 10 miles from Washington. The Potomac River, which is here six miles wide, is seen from any point on the estate and from many parts of the surrounding country adjacent.

More Cabinet Speculation.

Secretaries Blaine and Windom conferred with the President early yesterday afternoon on the subject of certain internal appointments which need to be made, and a number of Senators called later in the day. There was much talk of cabinet resigning this week.

If, however, the President has come to any decision with regard to the personnel of his future cabinet he certainly has not made his intentions known to those who expect to retire. Secretary Windom, when asked late yesterday afternoon if his visit to the President's office had re-

ment, replied that it had not, and that no official communication on the subject had yet reached him. The names of Judge Folger and ex-Governor Morgan are most prominently mentioned in connection with the Secretaryship of the Treasury, but the acceptance of that position is already

as doubtful.